

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 OIC-02 /086 W
-----000542 291211Z /50

R 290815Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2569
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8472

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UN, US, NI, SF, UK
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

REF: (A) LAGOS 6790, (B) USUN 1852, (C) STATE 176426

1. ACTING UK HIGH COMMISSIONER, JOHN WILLIAMS, CALLED ON CHARGE JULY 27 TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE. WILLIAMS SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW UK HAD NOT RECEIVED OFFICIAL INVITATION--IN FACT, ONLY INDICATION BRITISH WERE INVITED WAS WHEN AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN, NIGERIAN UN REP, HAD ASKED SEVERAL BRITISH OFFICIALS IF THEY WERE PLANNING TO ATTEND.

2. WILLIAMS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER DECLARATION TO BE ISSUED BY CONFERENCE. PASSING ON INFORMATION WHICH WAS APPARENTLY OBTAINED FROM AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN, HE SAID HARRIMAN HAD DECIDED, IN ORDER FOR DECLARATION TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO EVERYONE, IT SHOULD AVOID "UN LANGUAGE." HARRIMAN WOULD PREPARE FIRST DRAFT (WITHOUT CONFERRING WITH ANYONE.) COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHO IS EXPECTED TO CHAIR CONFERENCE, WOULD INVITE MEMBERS OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE TO LUNCH AND PRESENT DRAFT FOR THEIR APPROVAL. SUBSTANCE OF DECLARATION WOULD ADDRESS SUBJECT IN THE CONTEXT OF LIBERATION OF AFRICA RATHER THAN IN CONTEXT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS WAS USUALLY DONE BY WESTERN POWERS. IT WOULD CONTAIN LANGUAGE REFERRING TO MORAL ABHORRENCE OF APARTHEID AND ISSUE OF FUTURE INVESTMENT.

3. WILLIAMS EXPRESSED DISBELIEF THAT NIGERIANS COULD LIVE WITH SUCH MILD STATEMENT, THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD TO THIS SCENARIO AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE SABOTAGED BY SOME OF MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS IN ATTENDANCE. AFTER CONFERRING WITH EEC COLLEAGUES, WILLIAMS INTENDS TO REPORT HIS CONCERNS TO LONDON.

4. AS HARRIMAN AT UN IA APPARENTLY KEY MAN IN SUBSTANTIVE PLANNING, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PROPOSED DECLARATION AND OTHER CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES WHICH USUN MIGHT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN IN COMING WEEKS.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE WILLIAMS' CONCERNS HAVE SOME VALIDITY AND CAN ONLY HOPE THAT SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE ARE BETTER ORGANIZED THAN LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS REPORTED SEPTELS.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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